

AEA 9 Superintendents' Meeting April, 2010

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2010-2011 SITE VISIT SCHEDULE

The site visit schedule for the 2010-2011 school year will be finalized at a later date when a number of unknown factors, most specifically related to staffing patterns at the Iowa Department of Education, are determined.

In preparation for the development of the site visit schedule, we are asking districts/schools to provide School Improvement Consultants with preferences for weeks during which the site visit could be scheduled. Please reserve all of these tentative weeks until you have received notification from the DE of the dates for your district's/school's site visit.

Please email Tom Cooley (tom.cooley@iowa.gov) with preferences for at least three individual weeks between November 1 (or October 18 for non-publics) and February 18 during which you would prefer to have the site visit. You may also wish to prioritize your preferences.

The following AEA 9 districts and non-public schools are currently scheduled to receive site visits during the 2010-2011 school year:

- Camanche CSD
- Central Clinton CSD
- Assumption High School

NEW SENIOR YEAR PLUS GUIDANCE

A new guidance memo has been posted on the DE website regarding proficiency requirements for students taking Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses under Senior Year Plus (SYP). The document, called *Memo Regarding Alternative measures of Proficiency and CTE Courses for AY 2010-2011*, is found on the Senior Year Plus section of the [Department's website](#).

The full text of the Senior Year Plus Guide for Educators and Educational Administrators can also be accessed at the DE website.

For more information, contact Jeremy Varner at jeremy.varner@iowa.gov or 515-281-3542.

PERKINS GRANT

The Perkins Subject Area Consultants at the DE are reviewing Project EASIER Plus CTE data on courses within programs this month. Accuracy in reporting CTE programs will assist schools in collecting required data on CTE students for technical skill evaluation and proficiency for concentrators. Please direct questions to the Perkins consultant for your area. The list can be found at the bottom of the page in Project EASIER Plus CTE.

The Perkins applications and related data for 2011 will be sent to the consortiums/schools in April. Some of the items that need to be reviewed include budgets, performance indicator targets, review of targets not met and updates on activities. The updates and changes will need to be submitted to the DE by June 1, 2010.

STATEWIDE VOLUNTARY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM – PROPOSED CHANGES

The legislators have proposed changes to the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. SF 2376 provides the new subsection below, but has not yet been signed by the Governor.

NEW SUBSECTION. 3A. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, if the number of requests from school districts for initial participation in the preschool program exceeds the funding made available for the preschool program, in lieu of applying the provisions of subsection 3, the department shall implement a method for prorating grant awards to ensure that all interested and qualified school districts have access to the funding.

The Department is encouraging all districts to apply for the Preschool Program. An application is being developed and will be posted no later than April 16 at

http://www.iowa.gov/educate/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=940&Itemid=1279.

Contact Penny Milburn at 515-281-7844, Penny.Milburn@iowa.gov or Judy Russell at 515-281-4705, Judy.Russell@iowa.gov for further information.

THE ROLE OF TEXTBOOK ADOPTION COMMITTEES WITH ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Role of Textbook Adoption committees with Accessible Instructional Materials

Curriculum coordinators/committees have a unique opportunity to influence education through textbook adoption practices. Curriculum committees are vital to ensuring compliance with legal obligations today but also being proactive about the future. It is recommended that textbook adoption committees:

- ✓ Include accessibility as a factor in your decision-making rubrics and consider preference to those publishers who offer accessible versions for sale
- ✓ Include a broad range of educators on the curriculum committee, including special education
- ✓ Include Assistive Technology Specialists in determining the level of accessibility and the supports that may be necessary
- ✓ Request sample materials prior to purchase to determine the degree of accessibility (not all digital materials are accessible)
- ✓ Include language in purchasing agreements with publishers to ensure a NIMAS file is shared with the NIMAC (required)
- ✓ Include language in publisher contracts that promote the purchase of alternate format accessible materials for use by any student regardless of eligibility

To find additional information about this topic, please go to the Trueaim website (<http://trueaim.iowa.gov/>) under "About Trueaim" and scroll down to the Curriculum Coordinator Brochure or contact Steve Maurer at steve.maurer@iowa.gov or 515-281-3576.

NOTICE: 2010 IOWA YOUTH SURVEY

The Iowa Youth Survey is the most frequently used source of data regarding Iowa's youth. In response to requests of more current data for grant writing and community needs assessments, the Iowa Youth Survey (IYS) is now being conducted on a 2-year cycle.

The next IYS is scheduled to be administered in September and October 2010.

For more information about the 2010 IYS, please see the following letter from the Iowa Department of Public Health. Questions about the 2010 Iowa Youth Survey can be directed to Linda McGinnis at the Iowa Department of Public Health at lmcginni@idph.state.ia.us.

Dear Superintendent:

The Iowa Youth Survey is the most frequently used source of data regarding Iowa's youth. In response to requests of more current data for grant writing and community needs assessments, the Iowa Youth Survey (IYS) is now being conducted on a 2-year cycle.

The next IYS is scheduled to be administered in September and October 2010.

The 2010 Iowa Youth Survey will be taken through online survey software following much the same procedure as in 2008. Dates of administration are September 27-October 29, 2010, and, as always, the invitation to participate includes all public and non-public students in grades 6, 8, and 11. This year's survey administration timeframe has been expanded to 5 weeks to better accommodate computer access.

Following the 2008 IYS, we received vital feedback which we have integrated into the 2010 survey. Trainings will be held in the fall and we plan to make the trainings available via webinar rather than over the ICN as in past years.

In April, you will receive documents that must be returned to us by April 30, 2010. The "**Agreement to Participate**" and "**AEA Data Release**" forms may be returned via email with electronic signatures or by fax. Return information will be on the forms. A district contact person must be designated with contact information. All further information regarding the survey will be sent to that person. A copy of the "Passive Parental Consent" form will also be sent for your use. The Spanish version is being updated and will be available upon request.

Moving the online Iowa Youth Survey to a 2-year cycle is a positive step for Iowa and will continue to provide all of us with important current data regarding Iowa youth.

For questions about the 2010 Iowa Youth Survey, please contact Linda McGinnis at the Iowa Department of Public Health at lmcginni@idph.state.ia.us.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Iowa Youth Survey.

Sincerely,
Kathy Stone
Director, Division of Behavioral Health

NOTIFICATION OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY: SAMPLE STATEMENT

Districts are required to annually publish a non-discrimination notification statement in a newspaper or newsletter that goes to all community members, as well as in all major written district publications. This is sometimes cited as non-compliant in comprehensive site visit reports because the district's statement does not include all required protected classes or it is not in present in all required publications. Following is guidance in relation to these statements and a sample statement.

SAMPLE NOTIFICATION OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY TO BE PLACED IN ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS' MAJOR ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS AND ON DISTRICTS' WEBSITES

Major annual district publications include Annual Progress Reports (APRs); staff, student, and parent handbooks; coaches' handbooks; registration/course description handbooks; and employment applications and information that is sent to agencies that are collaborating with the district in the provision of educational programs. In this era of technology, it must also be included on the district's website. It should be found on the district's home page or linked to the homepage. It is not acceptable to be found only within one or more of the many documents that might be included on the website. In addition, once each year the notice should go out in a format that reaches the entire community. This could be a school newsletter that reaches all citizens, or the local print or electronic media. All notifications should include the name and contact information for the district's equity coordinator(s), as well as notification about the district's related grievance procedure. The non-discrimination notification statement must reflect all protected classes included within the district's equal opportunity in programs (student) and non-discrimination in employment policies, which also address Iowa Civil Rights legislation requirements.

SAMPLE NOTIFICATION OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the _____ Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinator, Name, Title, Address, Phone Number, E-mail Address

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 15	Budget Certification
April 15	Budget Guarantee – Board resolutions due to DOM
April 15	ISP/VPPEL – Copy of ballot or resolution due to DOM A copy of the ballot question or board resolution for a new or renewed instructional support levy or voter-approved physical plant and equipment levy for the upcoming budget is due to the Department of Management.
April 19	Spring EASIER Test Site Open
April 19	SBRC Exhibits Due
May 1	Bond Resolution (if any) with Control County Auditor
May 1	Copy of VPPEL Ballot due to DOM
May 1	Special Education Web Based Claims Due
May 1	Competent Private Instruction/Homeschooling Deadline for conducting annual assessment for homeschooled students
May 10	SBRC Meeting
May 10	Spring BEDS Open
May 12	Spring EASIER Test Site Closes
May 13	Iowa State Board of Education Meeting
May 17	Spring EASIER Collection Site Open

You can view a complete Iowa Department of Education calendar of events at <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/calendar/calendar.html>